

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 2435

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JA

SUBJ: POSSIBLE HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS

SUMMARY: FONOFF WORKING LEVEL IS CONCERNED OVER GROWING LENGTH OF HIATUS IN HIGH-LEVEL CONTACT BETWEEN GOJ AND US AND THINKING ABOUT POSSIBLE PROPOSALS FOR VISITS TO US BY FONMIN MIYAZAWA AND PRIME MINISTER MIKI. END SUMMARY.

1. COMMENTING ON FEB 24 JAPAN TIMES STORY THAT FONMIN MIYAZAWA PLANNING TO VISIT US IN APRIL, FIRST NORTH AMERICAN DIV DIR FUJII TOLD EMBOFF THAT ARTICLE WAS WRONG IN FACT BUT IMPLIED THAT IT WAS CORRECT IN SPIRIT. GOJ HAS GENUINE DESIRE TO HOLD HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, AND WORKING-LEVEL OFFICIALS BEGINNING TO FEEL SOME DISCOMFORT AT PROSPECT OF EXTENDED DELAY. AS A RESULT, KEY WORKING-LEVEL OFFICIALS, INCLUDING FUJII, MIYAZAWA'S PRIVATE SECRETARY ARIMA, AND MIKI'S PRIVATE SECRETARY KITAMURA HAVE BEEN TRADING THOUGHTS ON PROPOSALS FOR HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS. AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR GENERAL YAMAZAKI ALSO BROUGHT UP QUESTION IN GENERAL WAY AT FONOFF STAFF MEETING FEB 24.

2. FUJII STRESSED DIFFICULTY OF COMING TO ANY FIRM CONCLUSIONS NOW ON EITHER TIMING OR SUBSTANCE. LENGTH OF DIET SESSION, OUTCOME OF APRIL ELECTIONS, POSSIBILITY OF GENERAL ELECTION THIS SUMMER ALL CONTRIBUTE TO UNCERTAINTY. LOGICAL TIME FOR MIKI TO MAKE A VISIT, WERE THIS
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TO BE PROPOSED AND AGREED UPON, WOULD BE JULY. FONMIN

MIYAZAWA COULD CONCEIVABLY COME EARLIER. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, HOWEVER, FUJII NOT AT ALL SURE THAT VISIT BY PRIME MINISTER, SANDWICHED BETWEEN TRIPS FONMIN AND EMPEROR MIGHT NOT BE MORE THAN TRAFFIC WILL BEAR.

3. COMMENT: VAGUE OUTLINES NOTWITHSTANDING, FUJII'S MESSAGE IS CLEAR THAT FONOFF WORKING LEVEL CONCERNED OVER GROWING LENGTH OF HIATUS IN HIGH-LEVEL CONTACT, AND FACT THAT NEITHER NEW PRIME MINISTER NOR HIGH FOREIGN MINISTER HAS HAD OPPORTUNITY TO ESTABLISH PERSONAL CONTACT WITH US LEADERS. EXTENT TO WHICH TOP LEADERS SHARE THIS ANXIETY REMAINS TO BE SEEN.
HODGSON

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